

Alijah Caul, Hannah Crane, Gabrielle Daniels, Joseph DeBlasio, Madison Dempsey, Leya Erdman, John Fox, Samantha Gross, Zachary Knight, Briana Lucha, Rachel Mai, Jarred Matchett, Joshua Matchett, Hannah McLaughlin, Stephen McLaughlin, Matthew Michielli, Riley Molway, Minas Nicoludis, Anthony Nocito, Briana Novoa, Cain Pipitone, Dominic Rattell, Melanie Schmidt, Alexandra Simber, Gian Sinfuego, Taylor Swan, Christopher Thatcher, Daniel Trantas, Sophia Troilo, and William Waer. The director is Mrs. Lucinda Garvey and the scenes were all hand-painted by Mrs. Kristen Laurenzi and Mrs. Pam Laurenzi.

The students from the class also interviewed Mr. Rich Zimmerman, a longtime resident of Laurel Springs. After gathering information about the town, they wrote their play based on Mr. Zimmerman's knowledge. These exceptional students were very excited to celebrate Laurel Spring's history and to sing happy birthday to the town after the play. The class' efforts to commemorate their town exemplify a strong dedication to learning and an outstanding commitment to their community. I urge them to continue to practice civic engagement and academic curiosity as they grow older.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 300TH ANNIVERSARY OF FATHER JUNIPERO SERRA'S BIRTH

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 23, 2013

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to commemorate the 300th anniversary of Father Junipero Serra's birth.

Father Serra was born in Petra, Mallorca, Spain in 1713. After studying theology and being ordained to the Catholic priesthood, Serra left his beloved homeland in Mallorca and journeyed across continents and oceans in order to reach the New World.

Upon Serra's arrival on the West Coast of North America in 1769, he began founding a chain of missions that would eventually stretch from San Diego in the south to Solano in the north. This chain of 21 missions has developed into some of the central cities and towns of modern day California.

In what is now my Congressional district, Father Serra founded Mission San Luis Obispo de Tolosa. Since its establishment in 1772, this small Spanish outpost has grown into the beautiful city of San Luis Obispo.

Today, Father Serra's legacy is still present in San Luis Obispo and throughout California. The cultural and spiritual heritage of Serra continues as an enduring, living tradition and has shaped various aspects of Californian life up to the present day. Indeed, a statue of Father Serra now stands in the United States Capitol's Statuary Hall in Washington, DC, attesting to his profound influence in the shaping of American history.

This week, Palma de Mallorca, Spain will host a festival commemorating the occasion titled "300 años de Junip Serra (300 Years of Junipero Serra)." I send my best wishes for a wonderful celebration as Spain recognizes Father Serra's significant contribution to American and Spanish history and reflects on his cultural and spiritual legacy.

IN HONOR OF KELLOGG MIDDLE SCHOOL FOR THEIR 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. TIMOTHY J. WALZ

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 23, 2013

Mr. WALZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Kellogg Middle School in Rochester, Minnesota.

Named after the Honorable Frank Kellogg, a citizen of Rochester who served as Secretary of State under President Coolidge, Kellogg Middle School celebrates its 50th year of existence in 2013.

As a social studies teacher at Mankato West, I know how important it is to develop our next generation of leaders. The shared dedication of teachers, staff, and parents at Kellogg Middle School has produced grade-A education for the past half-century and will continue to nurture students for years to come.

Secretary Kellogg devoted his life to the cause of peace and was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1929. Kellogg Middle School carries on his legacy by teaching students to work together so everyone can achieve their full potential. That's a lesson for us all.

Over the last half century, the Frank B. Kellogg Middle School has instilled its proud tradition of education and excellence into their students today. The Kellogg Middle School is the oldest middle school in Rochester, and remains to this day the choice for students, parents, and teachers alike.

Just as Secretary Kellogg serves as an inspiration for southern Minnesotans, I am confident that Kellogg Middle School provides its graduates with the skills they need to succeed and maybe even one day win a Nobel Prize.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Kellogg Middle School for its 50 years of service to the students of Rochester.

CELEBRATING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF FT. SHERMAN TOWNSHIP

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 23, 2013

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the establishment of Ft. Sherman Township, a community of about 200 people, and to applaud the efforts of Titus County Historical Preservation Society, Titus County Historical Commission, Bob Sandlin State Park, and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department in working together to protect and preserve the location and rich history of Ft. Sherman.

Established in 1838, Ft. Sherman was the first community in southwest Titus County. It was built by Captain William Stout and members of the Red River Mounted Rangers, who are now considered to be Early Texas Rangers. Ft. Sherman was named in honor of Colonel Sidney Sherman, the Commander of the Left Wing of the Republic of Texas Army at the Battle of San Jacinto. Ft. Sherman's namesake famously originated the Battle Cry, "Remember the Alamo!"

The Fort served many purposes during its early years, functioning as a refuge for fami-

lies against Indian attacks and a resting place for early Texas Ranger units from 1838–1841, a voting place for several elections between 1842 and 1846, and a military waypoint during the War with Mexico in 1846.

Today, I am pleased to join the Titus County Historical Preservation Society and Titus County Historical Commission in honoring the early Texas families and military units for their self-reliance, independence, and role in Ft. Sherman's history. Yesterday, these organizations' efforts to have the Titus Commissioners Court approve a resolution were rewarded, and Saturday, June 8, 2013 has been declared "Fort Sherman Day."

I join my constituents of Titus County in celebrating Historic Ft. Sherman and its founding nearly 175 years ago, and I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating Titus County's historical preservation efforts of Ft. Sherman.

IN HONOR OF THE DELAWARE COUNTY VETERANS MEMORIAL

HON. PATRICK MEEHAN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 23, 2013

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Delaware County Veterans Memorial in my home state of Pennsylvania and the tremendous work done by Memorial's Board of Directors and its founding member, Claude de Botton and his daughter, Nicole de Botton Robinson, to make their vision a reality. The memorial, opening to the public next month, is a fitting tribute to the veterans of Delaware County. Engraved in the memorial's columns are the names of the Delaware County men and women who gave their lives in defense of American liberty. Our nation owes a debt of gratitude to its veterans that can never be repaid, but the Delaware County Veterans' Memorial will honor our veterans and ensure their sacrifices will always be remembered by future generations of Delaware County families.

THE IMPORTANCE OF A US-MOROCCAN RELATIONSHIP

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 23, 2013

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to reflect on the importance of US-Morocco bilateral relations—a friendship that has strongly endured for over 225 years because of shared interests and mutual respect. At a time when recent reports suggest that the relationship has come under some strain, we must remember that our relationship with Morocco is more important than ever and it will not be jeopardized. The Maghreb and Sahel are increasingly threatened by instability and insecurity emanating from the terrorist groups operating in Northern Mali and elsewhere, the United States' relationships with key allies in the region becomes all the more important. US-Morocco relations remain strong, based on a shared commitment to promoting peace, security, and human rights throughout North Africa and the wider Middle East. The US